Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of October 21, 2002 to October 25, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Wholesale Trade ($ millions)	August			In August, wholesale trade in Canada increased by 1.1%. The automotive sector had the greatest increase (3.4%), followed by industrial machinery (2.1%) and food products (1.7%). These were offset by the computer sector (-4.0%) and the farm machinery sector (-9.0%). Six provinces recorded an increase in wholesale sales, led by Saskatchewan (5.3%) and British Columbia (2.8%).
Alberta	3,527	1.4%	0.1%	
Canada	35,141	1.1%	5.6%	
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	September			In September, the Canadian CPI rose 2.3% compared to the same month last year. The most significant price increases compared to September 2001 came from cigarettes (39.7%) and automotive insurance premiums (15.7%). Electricity prices also rose 12.8%, mainly due to sharp increases in Ontario.
Alberta	125.9	1.3%	2.9%	
Canada	120.1	0.0%	2.3%	
Retail sales ($ millions)	August			Canadian retail sales increased by 0.2% in August, up to $25.7 billion. The largest increase in sales came in the drug store sector (0.6%), with gains of 0.3% in the food, automotive and other retail sectors. The general merchandise sector declined by 0.9%. In August, only three provinces recorded a gain in sales: Ontario (0.6%), Manitoba (0.6%), and Nova Scotia (0.3%).
Alberta	3,119	-0.1%	7.1%	
Canada	25,671	0.2%	6.4%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	September			The Composite Leading Index rose 0.2% in September, its fourteenth consecutive increase. Growth in housing (0.5%) and new orders for durables (0.1%) helped to offset losses in S&P / TSX stock (-4.1%). Excluding the stock market, the index rose by 0.5%.
	179.1	0.2%	7.6%	